

Amendments to the Claims

The following claim listing reflects the status of the claims pending in this application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A brace for supporting an arm of an ornamental fixture, the brace comprising:

an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to a support, ~~and a free second end,~~ and an upper surface that substantially conforms to a lower surface of the arm of the ornamental fixture; and

at least one platform located between the first end and the second end, the platform adapted to support the arm of the fixture.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the platform comprises a plate mounted to the brace.

4. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 3, wherein the plate comprises a perforated plate adapted to mount on one or more projections on the elongated element.

5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Currently Amended)** The brace as recited in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the lower surface of the arm comprises a sinuous lower surface,~~ and wherein the upper surface of the brace the elongated element comprises conforms to a sinuous upper lower surface of the arm.

7. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element comprises at least one perforation.

8. (**Original**) The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element comprises a thickness between about 0.10 inches and about 3.0 inches.

9. (**Original**) The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element further comprises at least one ornament mounting hook arrangement.

10. (**Cancelled**)

11. (**Original**) The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the platform comprises a surface on the elongated element.

12. (**Currently Amended**) An arrangement for supporting a decorative fixture, the arrangement comprising:

~~a glass arm~~ an arm made from a brittle material having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a second free end adapted for mounting the decorative fixture; and

a brace for supporting the glass arm, the brace comprising:

an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to the support and a free second end; and

at least one platform mounted to the elongated element and located between the first end and the second end of the ~~elongated element~~ the arm and distal the first end of the arm, the platform adapted to support the glass arm.

13. (**Currently Amended**) The arrangement recited in ~~claim 13~~ claim 12, wherein the glass arm comprises a lower surface and the elongated element comprises an upper surface shaped to substantially conform to the lower surface of the glass arm.

14. (**Currently Amended**) The arrangement recited in claim 12, wherein the lower surface of the glass arm comprises a sinuous lower surface and wherein the upper surface of the elongated element substantially conforms to the sinuous lower surface of the glass arm.

15. (**Original**) The arrangement recited in claim 12, further comprising at least one means for mounting an ornament to the brace.

16. (**Original**) The arrangement recited in claim 15, wherein the at least one means for mounting an ornament to the brace comprises a u-shaped channel in the elongated element.

17. (**Currently Amended**) An arrangement for supporting a decorative fixture, the arrangement comprising:

a glass arm having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a second free end adapted for mounting the decorative fixture;

a brace for supporting the glass arm, the brace comprising:

an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to the support and a free second end; and

at least one platform located between the first end and the second end of the elongated element, the platform adapted to support the glass arm; and

~~The arrangement recited in claim 12, further comprising a cushioning material located on the platform.~~

18. (**Currently Amended**) A method of supporting an arm of an ornamental fixture, the arm having a first end and a second end, the method comprising:

providing a brace comprising an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a free second end, and at least one platform ~~located between the first end and the second end, the platform~~ adapted to support the arm of the fixture;

mounting the first end of the brace to a support; and

mounting the arm of the ornamental fixture to the support and to the brace wherein the arm is supported by the at least one platform at a location distal the first end of the arm.

19. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the arm of the ornamental fixture comprises a sinuous lower surface and the brace comprises a sinuous upper surface, wherein mounting the arm of the ornamental fixture further comprises substantially mating the lower surface of the arm with the upper surface of the brace.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A method of supporting an arm of an ornamental fixture, the method comprising:

providing a brace comprising an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a free second end, and at least one platform located between the first end and the second end, the platform adapted to support the arm of the fixture:

mounting the first end of the brace to a support;

mounting the arm of the ornamental fixture to the support and to the brace wherein the arm is supported by the at least one platform; and

~~The method as recited in claim 18, further comprising~~ positioning a cushioning material between the arm and the platform of the brace.

21. (**New**) The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element comprises a curvilinear upper surface that substantially conforms to a lower surface of the arm for at least half the length of the arm.

22. (**New**) The arrangement recited in claim 12, wherein the brittle material comprises a glass.

23. (**New**) The arrangement recited in claim 12, wherein the arm comprises a length, and wherein the platform is located at least half the length from the first end of the arm.

24. (**New**) The arrangement recited in claim 18, wherein the arm comprises a length, and wherein the arm is supported by the at least one platform at a location at least half the length from the first end of the arm.